GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:352
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2015
IMPLEMENTATION OF MDMS
Kashyap Shri Virender

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any concrete proposal to sort out various short comings in the implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme such as problem of cooking, distribution of nutritional food, eradication of caste based inequalities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are complaints that the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) community are not allowed to cook the Mid-Day Meals in some schools and in some schools the teachers separate the SC students from non-SC students in the distribution of Mid-Day Meals in the schools;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such persons; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): The Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) daily covers about 10.33 crore children in 11.67 lakh schools across the country. The Scheme has continuously addressed issues in implementation through the engagement of cook-cum-helpers for food preparation, their training in hygienic cooking, use of Agmark ingredients for cooking, provision of kitchen-cum-stores buildings in schools and provision of kitchen devices for proper cooking and storage facilities as well as guidelines on non-discrimination in cooking and distribution of food, from time to time.

(c) to (e): Whenever any case of social discrimination is reported, the concerned State is requested to enquire and take prompt action. For example, a case relating to caste based discrimination in Amthapada Praklpa Upper Primary Schools of Block Boudh in District Boudh was reported in 2012 and the State Government of Odisha has taken action by suspending the Headmaster of the school and initiating disciplinary action against the Sub-Inspector of schools.